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PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 11th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 6 June 1995, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.45 a.m.

TRANSFORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME INTO AN EXECUTIVE BOARD (continued) (E/1995/9 and E/1995/14 and Add.1)

The PRESIDENT said that a number of amendments had been proposed to the text of the draft resolution on revision of the General Regulations of the World Food Programme and reconstitution of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes as the Executive Board of the World Food Programme, contained in annex II to document E/1995/14/Add.1. In paragraph 2, the words "for four years" should be inserted after the words "interim basis", and a new sentence reading "This allocation of seats creates no precedent for the composition of other United Nations bodies of a limited membership" should be added at the end of the paragraph. Paragraph 3 should be redrafted to read:

"Decides further that the above distribution of seats should be reviewed within two years after the establishment of the Executive Board with a view to achieving its final outcome in accordance with paragraphs 25 and 30, and other relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 48/162. This review shall be conducted in parallel by the United Nations General Assembly and FAO Conference, taking into account the relevant inputs of the Economic and Social Council and FAO Council, and its results shall enter into force on 1 January 2000."

It was his understanding that there was a consensus on the text, as amended. He would take it that the Council wished to accept the amendments.

It was so decided.

Mr. STOBY (Director, Division for Policy Coordination and ECOSOC Affairs), replying to a question from Ms. REBONG (Philippines) concerning paragraph 3, said that the distribution of seats would be reviewed once the General Assembly and the FAO General Conference had taken a decision on the matter. He therefore proposed that the blank space in operative paragraph 4 should be filled with the words "resumed substantive session".

The PRESIDENT said he would take it that the Council wished to transmit the text of the draft resolution, as amended, to the General Assembly for adoption.

It was so decided.

Mr. KUDRYAVTSEV (Russian Federation), speaking on behalf of Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in addition to his own delegation, said that those delegations were greatly dissatisfied with the allocation of seats to regional groups proposed in the draft resolution, since it deprived them of two of the four seats for which they were eligible under General Assembly resolution 48/162. The latter resolution established a real balance of interests, including that of the representation of different regions in the governing bodies of United Nations operational funds and programmes.

The States members of the Group had none the less agreed to the amended text of the draft resolution in order to facilitate consensus and allow reform of the governing body of the World Food Programme to be implemented with effect from 1 January 1996. It was their understanding that the agreement on the composition of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme was of an interim nature and was limited to four years. It was also their understanding that that temporary scheme for the allocation of seats to regional groups created no precedent in terms of the composition of any other limited membership United Nations body. Further, the purpose of the review to be conducted within two years of the establishment of the Executive Board, namely before 1 January 1998, would be to determine a final allocation of seats for regional groups in accordance with the scheme approved in General Assembly resolution 48/162. That would allow the Eastern European Group to recover its right to four seats with effect from 1 January 2000.

The Council should recognize that some elements of the draft resolution might undermine the spirit of General Assembly resolution 48/162. In that regard he requested the Office of Legal Affairs to submit to the Council before its substantive session an official interpretation of the applicability of General Assembly resolutions within the United Nations system.

Speaking as the representative of the Russian Federation, he reminded the Council that his country had actively contributed to talks on reforming the social and economic spheres of the United Nations, which had resulted in the adoption of General Assembly resolution 48/162. While welcoming the reforms of WFP, which had been initiated in accordance with the spirit and the letter of that resolution, his delegation wished to point out that the Russian Federation and a number of other countries had not been included in the early stages of the discussions and had not been invited to participate in the negotiations that had been held in Rome.

His delegation wished to register its dissatisfaction with the work undertaken by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes regarding the reforms, particularly with the latter's decision to depart from the agreed provisions of resolution 48/162, and reduce the number of seats allotted to the Eastern European States, in direct violation of their rights. The Russian Federation did not, however, wish to slow down or torpedo the reform process and took it that whatever decision the Council made would be coordinated with decisions taken by the FAO Council, the FAO General Conference and the fiftieth session of the General Assembly.

Mr. ZEBRAKOVSKY (Czech Republic) said that his delegation was deeply dissatisfied with the reduction in the number of seats for the Eastern European States. The overriding criterion in the review of the composition of the Executive Board must be to restore the situation to that envisaged in General Assembly resolution 48/162.

Mr. DELACROIX (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that it was his understanding, with regard to the new wording of paragraph 2, that the period of four years referred to the distribution of seats and not to the term of office. With respect to the statement by the Russian Federation, he noted that the General Assembly had decided that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia should not participate in the activities of United Nations organs.

Mr. KAARIA (Finland) said that it was his understanding that the wording of paragraph 2 did not reflect any change in the term but meant that the interim nature of the allocation would be in effect for four years.

ELECTIONS, CONFIRMATIONS AND NOMINATIONS (continued)

The PRESIDENT, referring to the vacant seat on the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to be filled by a candidate from the Group of

African States, said that the Secretariat had received the candidature of Swaziland. In the absence of any other candidates, he took it that the Council wished to elect Swaziland by acclamation.

Swaziland was elected a member of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations by acclamation.

The PRESIDENT, replying to a question from Mr. KELLOWAY (Australia), said that it was his understanding that the elections to fill the vacant seat on the Programme Coordination Board of the Joint and Co-Sponsored Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) would be conducted at the substantive session.

After an exchange of courtesies, the President declared the organizational session for 1995 closed.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.